

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Page 66, please amend the Abstract as follows:

An operating mechanism ~~for a movable closure element~~ to releasably engage a strike assembly ~~on a frame support and thereby releasably~~ to maintain the a movable closure element in a predetermined position ~~relative to the frame support~~. The operating mechanism has a base ~~with an elongate portion~~ with a first axis and a wall extending around the first axis and defining a passageway. A latch system ~~on the base~~ has (a) a latched state in which the latch system engages a strike element ~~on the strike assembly so as to maintain a movable closure element on which the operating mechanism is mounted in the predetermined position~~ and (b) a released state wherein the latch system can be disengaged from the strike element ~~so as to allow a movable closure element on which the operating mechanism is mounted to be moved from the predetermined position~~. The operating mechanism further includes an actuating system ~~on the base~~ that is changeable from a first state into a second state to thereby change the state of the latch system ~~from the latched state into the released state~~. The actuating system has ~~at least~~ a first link which is movable ~~axially~~ within the passageway from a first position into a second position to ~~thereby change the state of the latch system from the latched state into the released state~~. The actuating system further includes an actuating assembly that can be directed ~~radially through the wall on the base into operative engagement with~~ connected to the base without requiring separate fasteners ~~to maintain the operative engagement between the actuating assembly and the base~~.